

An Innovative Partnership For Regulatory Permitting

City of Seattle and US Army Corps of Engineers

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Seattle District

Outline

**Tool - Water Resource Development Act of 2000
(WRDA)**

**Seattle, the 1st Year of the Nationwide
Workload & Effectiveness Study (ESA)**

Our Experience with WRDA

Where Do We Go



How WRDA Works

- Corps and non-Federal public entity enter into an agreement

Local agency deposits money in an account with the Corps

Corps uses money to charge their staff time

Seattle, Washington



City Services



Seattle's Environmental Commitment



Map of State with Seattle's Project Areas/Property



**Section 10 of the
Rivers and
Harbors
Act**

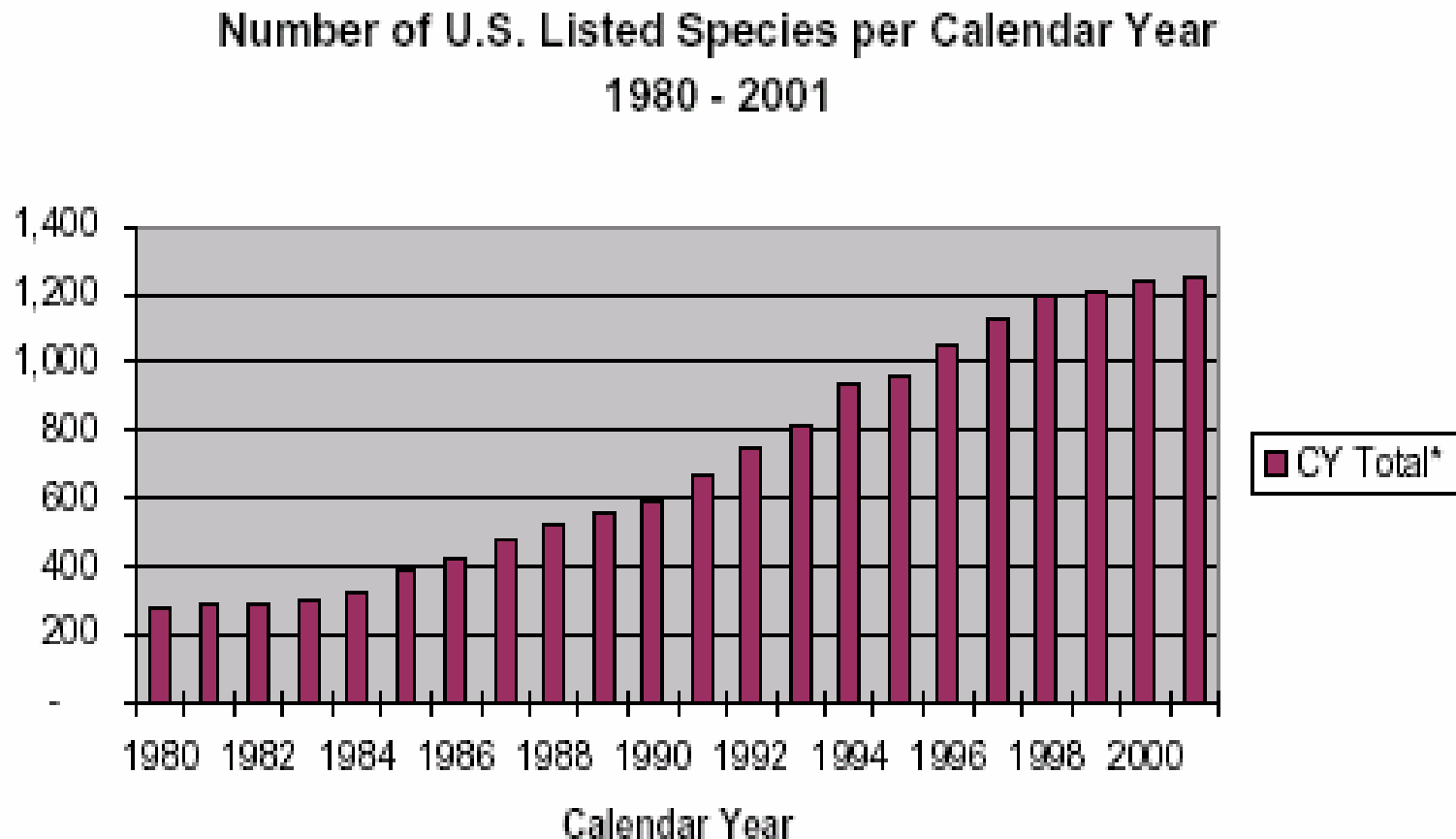
**Section 404 of the
Clean Water Act**



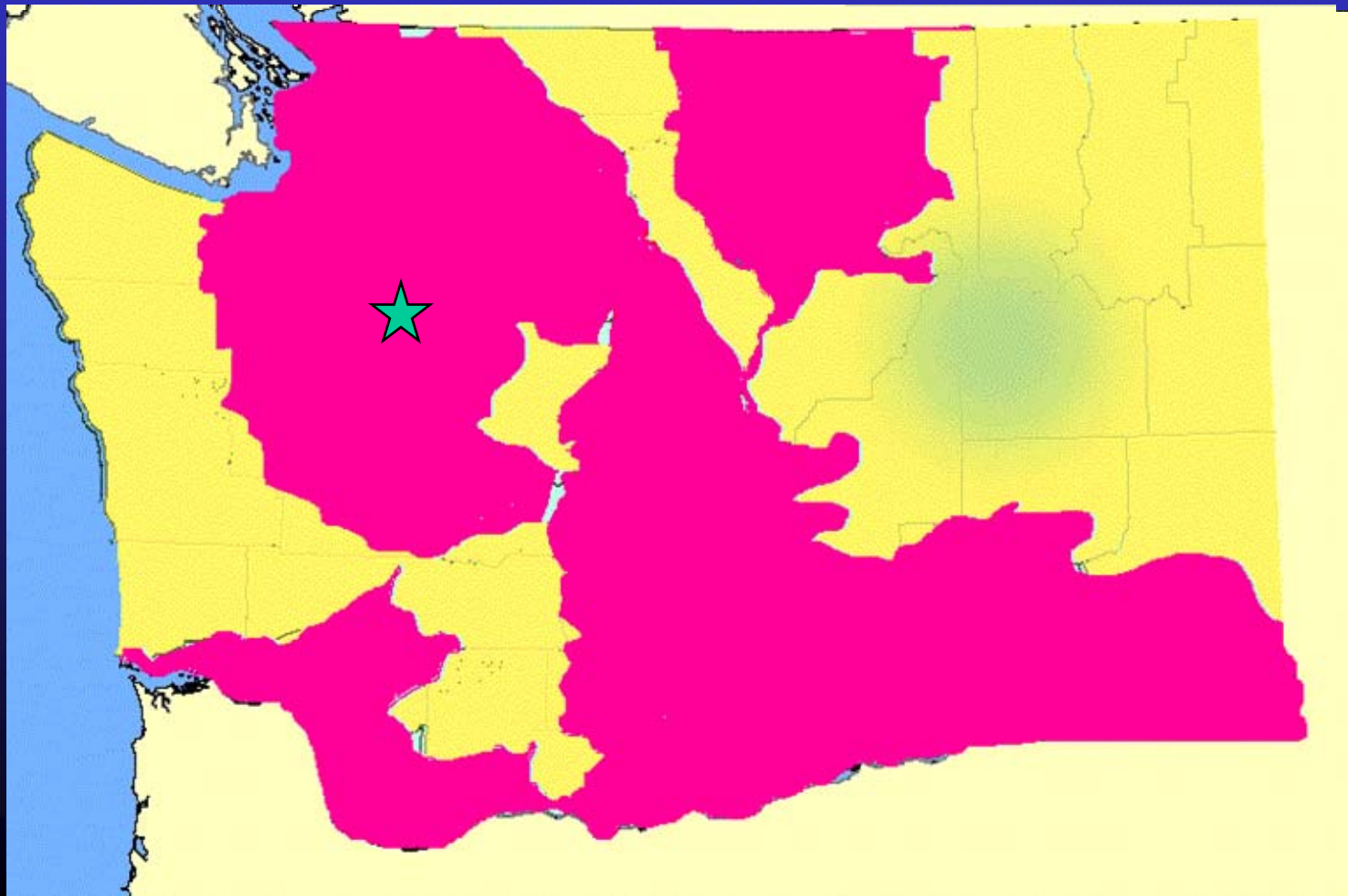
**National Historic
Preservation Act**

**Endangered
Species
Act**

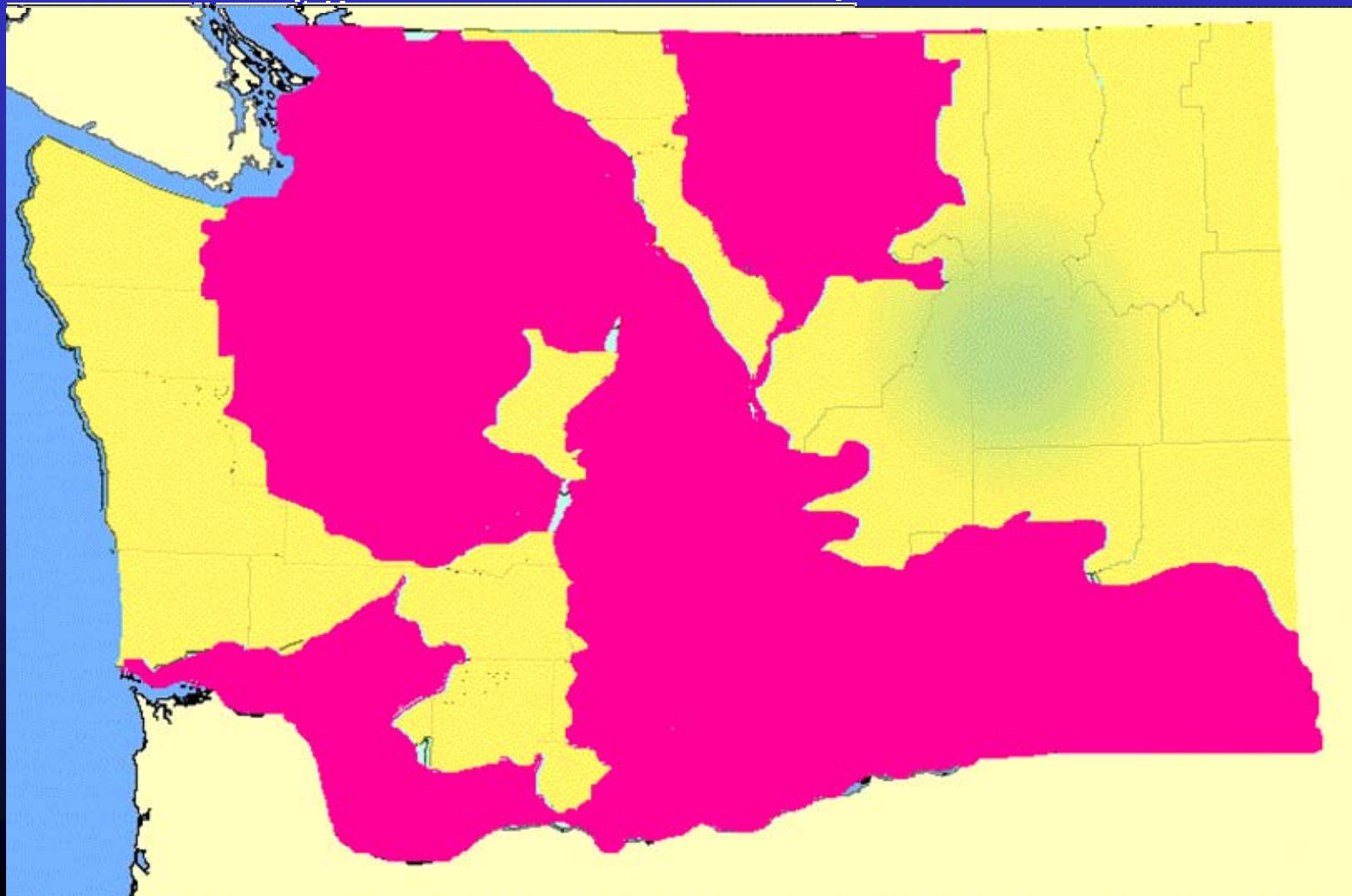
Number of U.S. Listed Species per Calendar Year 1980-2001

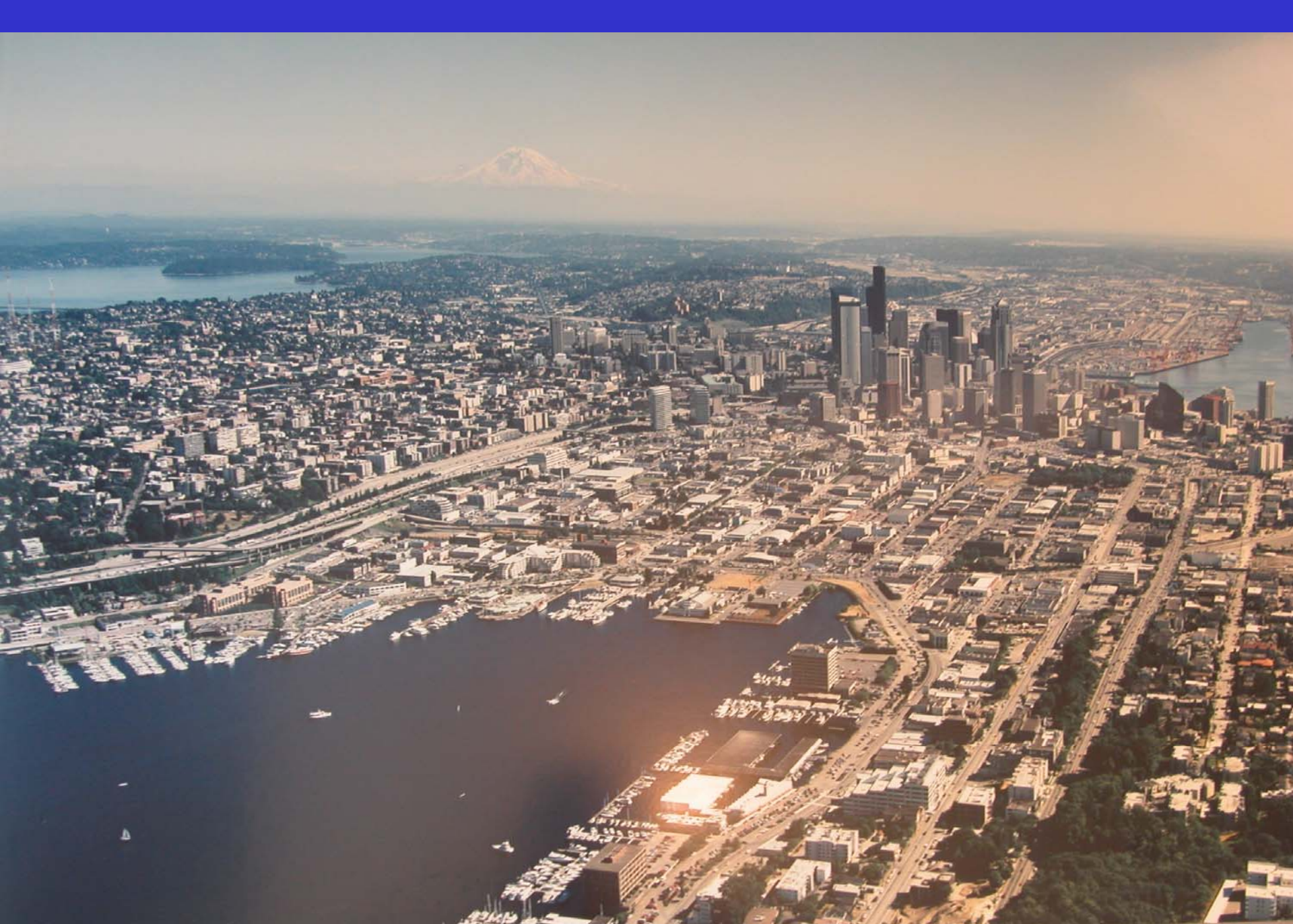


1999 ESA Listings and Area Affected



1999 ESA Listings and Area Affected

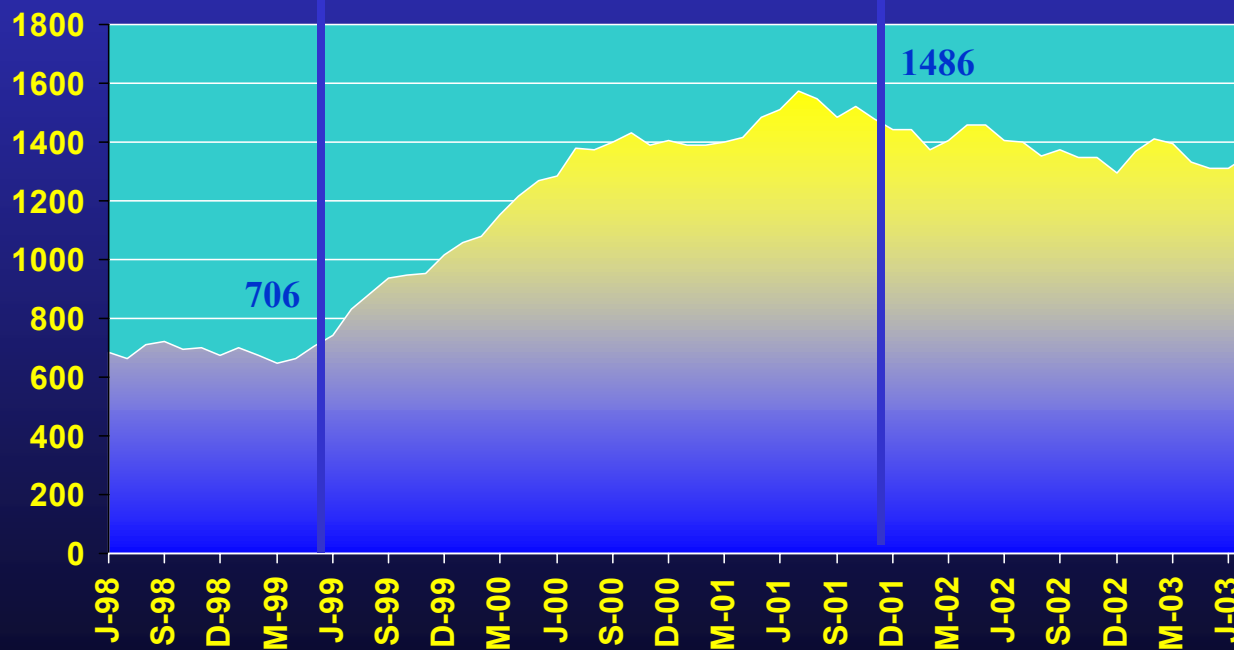




Seattle District Workload Figures

Cumulative Total of all Project Managers' Pending Actions

(IPs, LOPs, NWP, JDs, Regionals, Mods, Exemptions, No Permit Requireds, After-the-Facts, Suspensions, Violations)



(figures as of the first of each month)

WRDA 2000

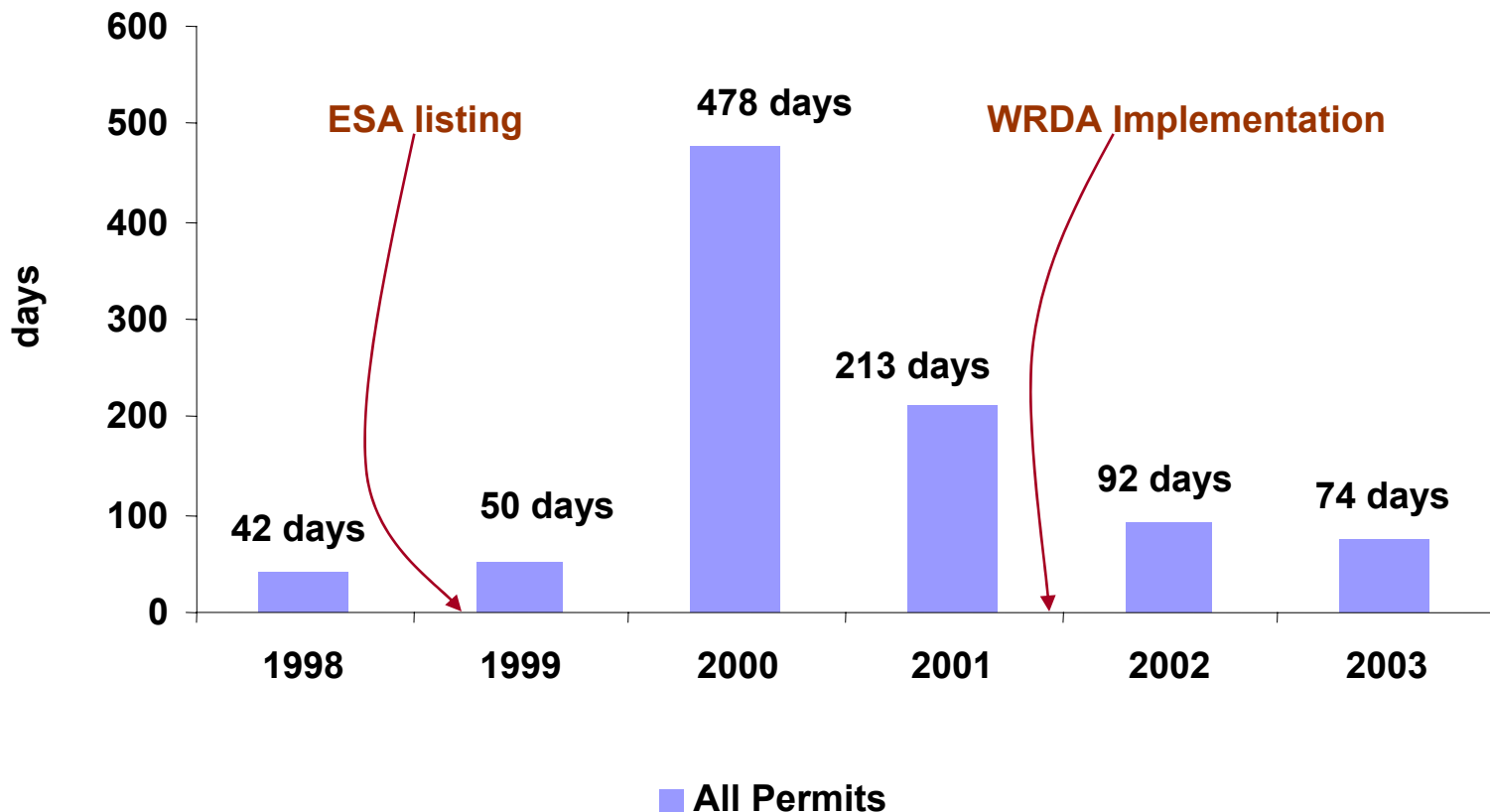
A New Tool to Accelerate USACE Permit Review

**WRDA 2000 Allowed
Corps to Accept Funds
to Expedite Prioritize
Projects**

**Prioritization Identified
by Public Agency
Funding
WRDA Agreement**



City of Seattle/US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Permit Process Time Before and After ESA and WRDA



Our Experience with WRDA

\$ Savings on projects (over 18 months):
59 Projects - \$51,000 = \$3.3 Million in Avoided Costs

Reduced project review:
478 days - 74 days = 404 days saved per project.

Improved predictability:
Reduced redesign, better able to maintain scope/schedule/budget.

Our Experience with WRDA (cont'd)

Improved communications:

One point of contact means....

Improved environmental outcomes:

Coordination leads to avoidance and minimization

Benefits/Considerations in Implementing WRDA

- **Savings on project design/implementation**
Hourly review fee by Corps employee
- **Reduced permitting time/queue time**
Extra time set up for meetings to establish team dynamics and understanding
- **Queue time for all applicants reduced**
Dealing with public perception
- **Priority projects reviewed first**
Non-prioritized projects have been put on wayside

Benefits/Considerations in Implementing WRDA (cont'd)

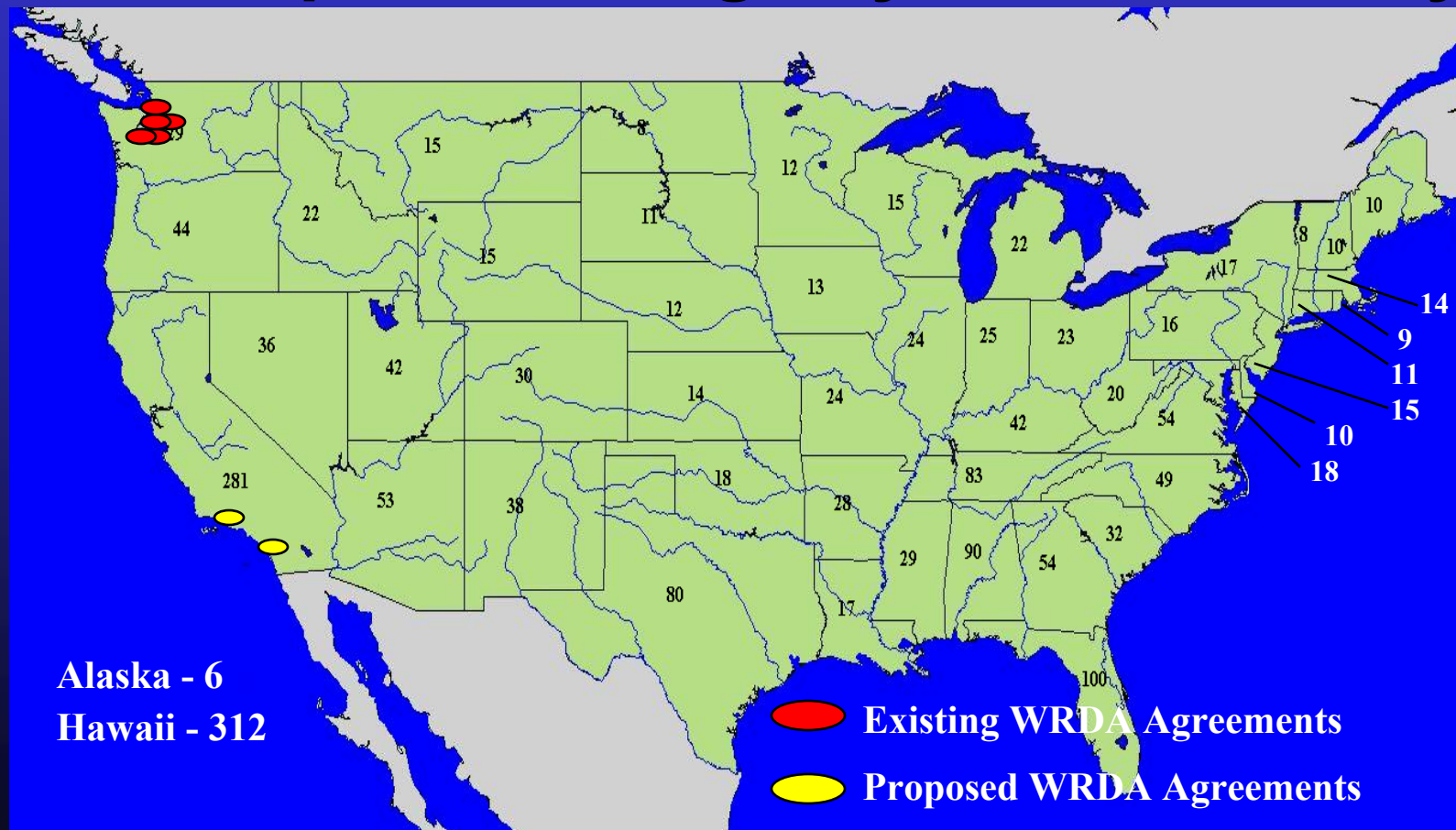
- **Staff are better educated on Processes and Requirements**
Initial internal perceptions needed to be corrected
- **Improved communications/understanding**
Investment in training Staff and developing tools
- **Improved business processes**
Costs of culture shifts and redesigning business processes

Keys to Smooth Implementation

- **Designated Lead City Agency**
- **Establish “Single Point of Contact” for each agency**
- **Develop written expectations during the initial set-up phase**
- **Meet on a Regular Basis (1/month)**
- **Bi-Monthly Informal Pre-Application Meetings**
- **Periodic Site Visits**

WRDA Agreement Locations - 2003

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Listed Species Range by State/Territory



Where Does the City of Seattle Go From Here?



Similar MOA with USFWS & NMFS 



**Reference Biological Assessment-
Geographic Based**



**Continue to Improve Business Processes
and Practices**

- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Permit Tracking System
- Facilitated Federal Permit Web-Page
- Education



Eliminate WRDA Sunset Clause

Where Does the Corps Go From Here?

Status of WRDA Agreements Across the Nation

- Corps Districts cannot solicit funds for agreements, it can only inform the public that this process is available.
- The non-Federal entity has to initiate request to the Corps.
- Several Corps Districts are initiating the public notice procedures to establish agreements with Non-Federal entities.
- Seattle District is continuing to communicate with its non-Federal partners to improve this process. I.e. - examining how internal workload is distributed to prevent problems that have been described above.

The Future of WRDA

Status of WRDA Section 214 & Sunset Clause

- Originally the WRDA agreement was set to expire in September 2003.
- On December 1, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, H 2754 (Pub.L 108-137), of which Section 114 extended the sunset clause until September 2005.
- The WRDA 2004 Bill eliminates the sunset clause, and will rename the legislation to FEE POP. This new legislation allows for electronic filing of permit application.

Summary



- **WRDA as a tool**
- **Discussed the Corps workload and ESA**
- **Benefits/Costs of WRDA**
- **Future steps**

Questions???

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Business Process Improvement Forms

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL

CITY OF SEATTLE Information

What Does Each Project

- MAPS (Prefer 8 1/2 x 11)
- Vicinity Map
- GIS Map – Showing both site, or within 3 mile radius for surface water flow.
- Site Map
- Plan View
- Cross Section
- Detail
- WRITTEN MATERIAL
- Complete the “General
- Joint Aquatic’s Review
- Complete a draft JARP (Masako Lo has good experience information)

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW & PERMIT COORDINATION

CITY OF SEATTLE

What Does Each Project

- MAPS (Prefer 8 1/2 x 11)
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City of Seattle – US Army Corps of Engineers 2003 Informal Pre-Application Meeting Feedback Form

Department/Division:
Name (Optional):
Meeting Date:

1=strongly agree
2=disagree
3=neutral
4=agree
5=strongly agree

1=relatively important
2=somewhat important
3=important
4=very important
5=extremely important

	Performance	Importance
Did you feel you had sufficient time to explain your project?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Was there sufficient time for good discussion of your project?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Was the feedback from the Corps helpful to you?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Do you have a better understanding of what you need to do regarding Corps, NMFS, & USFWS requirements?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Do you have a better understanding of the timeline needed for Federal permits and application elements to include in your application package?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Will you be making change to your project design based on feedback you received from the Corps at the meeting?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Did the informal Pre-App meeting influence your proposed construction schedule?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Was the Informal Pre-App meeting beneficial?	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Comments:



Web-Page Application to Improve Internal Communications



Facilitated Permit Coordination - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Reload Home Search Favorites Media Mail Print

Address <http://www.cityofseattle.net/util/corpspermit/default.htm>

City of Seattle Web Seattle Services City Home Pages

Seattle Public Utilities Index Services Conservation & Environment Projects & Planning News About Us

Engineering Support

Facilitated Permit Coordination

City of Seattle & US Army of Corps Engineers

Overview

The City of Seattle and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have developed a process to streamline permitting for City of Seattle Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. The Mayor's Office has designated Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to coordinate permits with the Corps.

How it works?

View 7 easy steps to streamline permitting for City of Seattle CIP projects. [More](#)

Facilitated permit coordination was granted under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in December 2000. The City is the first public agency in the country to develop and use facilitated permitting. Projects that go through facilitated permitting can move up the City's list of prioritized projects.

Who should use it?

Facilitated permit coordination helps City project managers whose CIP projects will need Corps permits. Facilitated permit coordination can substantially reduce permit processing time, which can take up to a year.

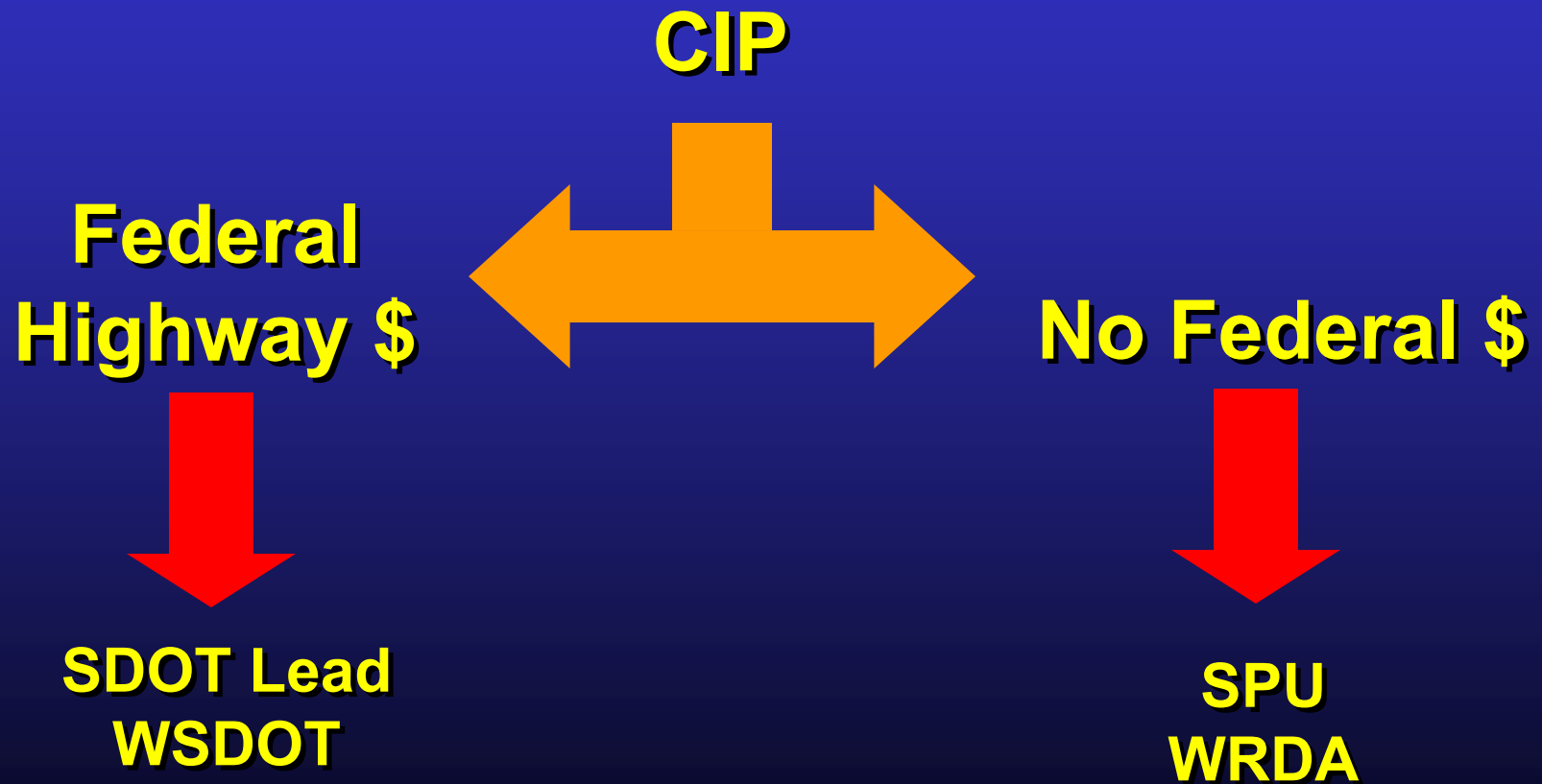
Why do we need facilitated permitting?

Pre-application conferences are a means of obtaining critical information from a regulatory agency. Agencies like them because they avoid receiving a premature or incomplete set of plans for permit review.

[SPU Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Site Index](#)

Last Updated: 10/25/02

City of Seattle Facilitated Federal Permitting Process









How to Create a Positive Working Relationship

- 1. Treat each other with respect**
- 2. Learn as much as you can about the process and business/regulatory requirements**
- 3. Be an active listener and open communicator**
- 4. Be responsive to Corps' requests for information**
- 5. Clearly articulate a project's needs and objectives in the context of the Corps regulatory requirements**
- 6. Politely and professionally ask questions**
- 7. Be receptive to constructive feedback and act on it!**
- 8. Don't shoot the messenger**



Cost Options with USFWS and NMFS

	<u>NOAA Fisheries</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Do Nothing	0	0	\$0 Services \$\$ Delays
Port of Seattle	1/2 	\$60,000	\$120,000
Port of Tacoma	1/2 	\$60,000	\$120,000
City of Seattle	1/2 	1/2 	\$120,000
Other Option			\$240,000



How WRDA Works

- Corps and [redacted] entity enter into an agreement

Local agency of the Corps account with

Corps use off time

Where Does the City of Seattle Go From Here? (cont'd)



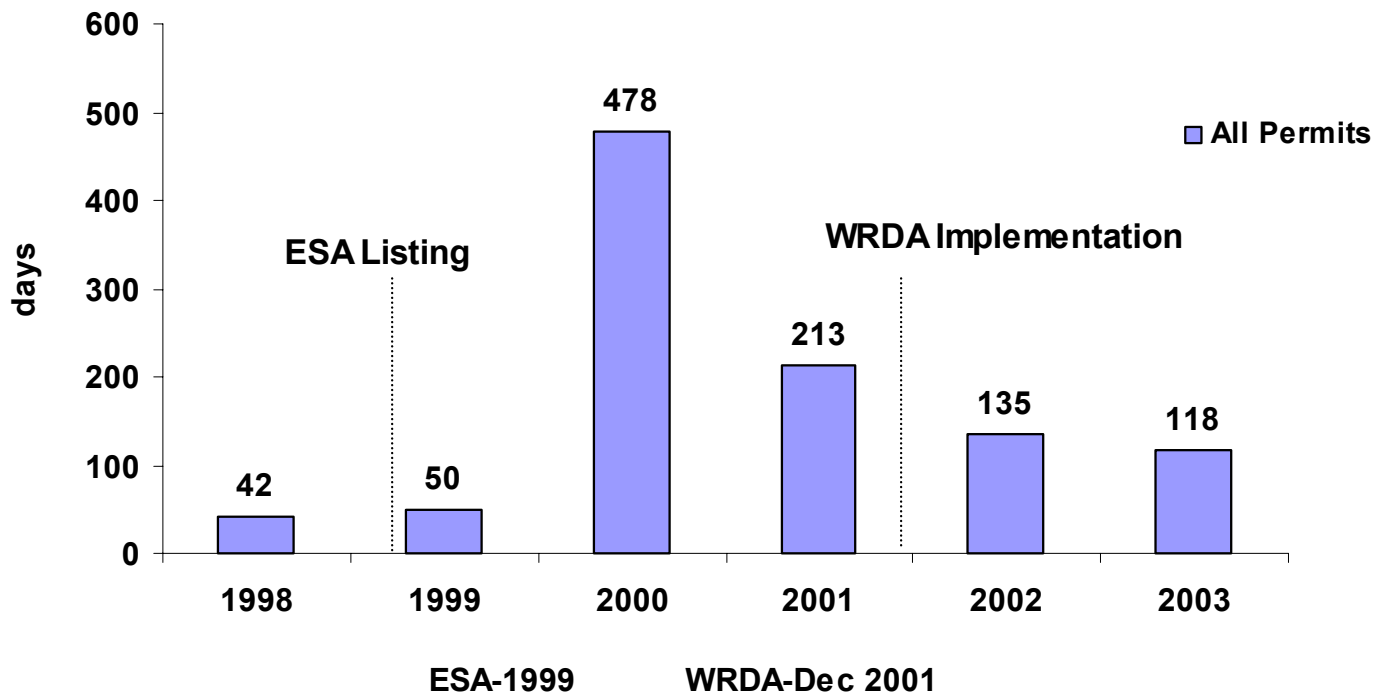
WRDA Section 214: work to eliminate the Sunset Clause - perpetuity



Continue to network with other WRDA agencies

City of Seattle/US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Permit Process Time

Approved permits through 12/31/03



City of Seattle/US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Permit Process Time

Approved permits through 12/31/03

